



Environmental Living Program Program Summary

Thank you for your interest in California State Parks' *Environmental Living Program* (ELP) at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park located at 2701 L Street Sacramento, CA 95816. This is a special program that allows California school children to "live" history. The students, along with their teacher and trained parent helpers, spend 24 hours portraying characters of 1840s California and partake in the various trade activities and entertainment of the era. Due to our limited overnight facilities a maximum of 70 students may attend the overnight portion of the program. Arrangements may be made to allow more students to participate in the daytime and evening activities.

Application and Selection Process:

- An application by the teacher is required to participate in ELP
- Each teacher must apply on a separate application.
- Only one application will be accepted per class; however schools with multiple classes may submit an application from each teacher.
- Applications are selected in a random drawing
- If your application is drawn and you cannot attend, the next teacher on the waiting list will be selected.
- Program days are Tuesdays and Thursdays from November into June

Costs:

- The program participation fee is \$475.
- There are other costs (e.g. food, project supplies, entertainment, etc.) that you will incur.
 - The exact amount depends on what you want to do with your ELP. For example, some groups may hire musicians for evening entertainment while other schools do skits or tell campfire stories.

Training and Selection:

- All teachers must attend a *mandatory training workshop* held on a Saturday in late August. This gives teachers more information about the program and what the Fort can provide and what schools may provide.
 - It is also the time that your ELP date is selected. The selection order is based upon the lottery draw.
- A Training Workshop for teachers AND parents is held on a Saturday later in the year.
 - Four workshops are offered during the school year. It is mandatory that a parent be trained for each station you plan to operate—no exceptions! This program requires strong parent support and participation.

Participation

- A pre-visit to the Fort (not required but recommended) normally occurs about three weeks before the overnight and introduces the students to the Fort. This helps to assuage fears and gives the students a tangible idea for what they are preparing.
- The overnight program starts at 8:00am on a Tuesday or Thursday and ends by 9:00am the following day.
- Students arrive (usually by wagon train) dressed in costumes typical of those that would have been seen around the Fort in the 1839-1849 historical period. They spend the day performing many of the jobs that would have been done around the Fort, including candle-making, trapping, roping cattle, packing a covered wagon, weaving a blanket, and cooking and baking.
- At night, groups take turns keeping a “night watch” while the others are comfortably tucked into their bedrolls (sleeping bags).

This program is a fabulous teaching tool that has been successful since 1976. It is based upon students learning through hands-on first hand experiences. We appreciate your interest and invite you to contact us if you have additional questions. Applications are available at the Fort or on the internet at www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort.